

Form PTO-1390
(REV 10-97)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

84625-000200

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5)

09/582721

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/GB98/03881

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

22 December 1998

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

30 December 1997

TITLE OF INVENTION

DATABASE UPDATING IN A MOBILE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

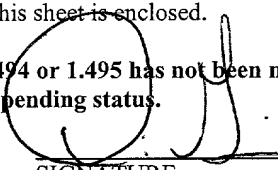
O'NEILL, Dominic Desmond Phelim

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith – courtesy copy (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States receiving Office (RO/US)
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments as to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5))

Items 11. to 16. below, concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information: A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.55) 09/582721		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB98/03881		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 84625-000200	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 C.F.R. 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO 840.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 C.F.R. 1.482) 670.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 C.F.R. 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 C.F.R. 1.445(a)(2)) 760.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) nor international search fee (37 C.F.R. 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO 970.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 C.F.R. 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) 96.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total Claims	8-20=	0	x \$18.00	\$	
Independent Claims	4-3=	1	x \$7800	\$ 78.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 918.00	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 C.F.R. 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 918.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 C.F.R. 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 918.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 C.F.R. 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 C.F.R. 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$ 40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged	\$ 958.00
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 20-1430 in the amount of \$ 958.00 to cover the above fees. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1430. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Darin J. Gibby Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111			 SIGNATURE Darin J. Gibby NAME 38,464 REGISTRATION NUMBER		

09/582721

532 Rec'd PCT/PTC 29 JUN 2000

"Express Mail" Label No. EK 777546905 US
Date of Deposit 6-28-00

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 84625-000200US
Client Reference No.: TRC/BP5853585

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal
Service "Express Mail Post Office to Address" service under 37 CFR 1.10
on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D C. 20231

By: Janet Byrne

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Dominic Desmond Phelim O'Neill

Filed: Herewith

For: DATABASE UPDATING IN A
MOBILE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Intl. Appl. No.: PCT/GB98/03881

Intl. Filing Date: 22 December 1998

Priority Filing Date: 30 December 1997

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the
following amendments and remarks.

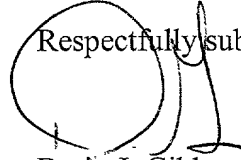
IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) A network according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein databases
other than said primary database and said primary standby database[(s)] are secondary
databases and are arranged to signal to said primary and/or said primary standby database[(s)]
when they have been updated in response to the updating signals from said primary of said
primary standby database[(s)].

REMARKS

Claim 3 has been amended to conform with U.S. practice. Examination of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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09/582721

DATABASE UPDATING IN A MOBILE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a telecommunication
5 system. The present invention is particularly, but not
exclusively, concerned with a telecommunications system
for mobile telephones.

SUMMARY OF THE PRIOR ART

When a telecommunication system involves mobile
10 telephones, a call to a mobile telephone is not to a
fixed point, and therefore the system must determine the
location of the destination. The simplest arrangement is
for a call to a mobile telephone to result in a signal
being transmitted to a data storage unit in the form of a
15 Home Location Register unit (HLR) which determines the
location of the mobile telephone, and so permits routing
of the call to occur.

Inevitably, HLRs have a limited capacity, and some
arrangement is therefore necessary to enable
20 telecommunication systems to access multiple HLRs. It
should be noted that it is also envisaged that users may
need multiple MSISDN numbers, for example if a user is to
have the possibility of both voice and data
communication, in existing systems, any second MSISDN

number with a common identity number (IMSI) must be a MSISDN number of the same HLR as the previous MSISDN number. This could be impossible to achieve if, for example, the HLR containing the original information is full. Then the only way that additional services could be provided would require the user to change telephone number, which would be undesirable. This becomes a particular problem if it is desirable that users are able to select their numbers, rather than be provided with them.

WO 96/11557 (corresponding to US 08/809767) the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference, proposed that the switch network which connects users to other users, HLRs, and system services, had a register unit associated therewith, which register unit contained information relating each telephone number to a corresponding one of a plurality of HLRs. The relationship between telephone numbers and HLRs should then be freely selectable within the register unit, so that the register unit acted as a converter between the number and the information identifying the HLR.

By providing such a register unit, the fixed relationship between numbers and HLRs was broken, and any

number can be assigned to any HLR, assuming space permits. WO 96/11557 also proposed that the register unit stored further information associated with the mobile telephones which permits the switch network to
5 enable calls from mobile telephones to be routed to different services, depending on the calling mobile telephone itself, in addition to the number dialled.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention develops further the ideas
10 proposed in WO 96/11557 by considering the location within which information is stored in the network. In WO 96/11557, the question of the location of the register unit was not considered.

When considering data in the network, there are two
15 things that need to be taken into account. The first is the storage of the data itself, and the second is data control, being the means of handling queries, updates, results in synchronisation messages and similar controls. The arrangement described in WO 96/11557 can be
20 considered to be of this type in that the register needs to store data, and also needs to store control information for acting on that data.

At first sight, both the data and the data control

functions may be located at a single site, and stored on a single physical device such as a server which responds to queries and updates. The information stored may be considered to comprise a data function and a data control function, with the data function representing sets of data relating to respective telephone numbers, telephone control operations, etc. The data function and data control function may be considered to form a database of functions.

10 However, if there is only a single database that operate in this way, the network is vulnerable to failure. Therefore, at its most general, the present invention proposes that the database of functions be replicated a plurality of times. Each database comprises
15 a data function and a data control function. The replicated databases may physically be located in a single location, or may be at a plurality of physically separate locations. In either case, each replicated database may be considered to be a service data function
20 with each such function being a notional site in the network. The sites of the functions are thus virtual sites, rather than being necessarily physically separate.

Preferably, each service data function may be stored

on a separate storage device. That storage device may also store other information needed by the network, or may control only the service data function. However, from an operational point of view, the relationships

5 between the service data functions are more important than their physical locations. Although the service data functions represent a distributed database, that distributed database must form a logically singular entity, even when physically distributed. Otherwise, the
10 network will not operate correctly. Therefore, control must be applied across the distributed database.

For example, when considering such a distributed set of functions, it is important for the data functions to be synchronised and the data control functions to
15 interwork to control the synchronisation. This synchronisation includes not only the need for the information about any particular telephone number to be the same at each function, but also for the facilities associated with that telephone number to be the same at each
20 function. The present invention therefore relates to the synchronisation of those functions.

It should be noted that although the present invention has been developed in connection with the

register unit of WO 96/11557, the present invention is not limited to the operation of that register unit, and relates to arrangements in any network in which functions are distributed. Where the present invention is used in connection with the register unit of WO 96/11557, the register unit may be embodied in any of the distributed service data functions, or the actions of the register unit may be distributed across more than one service data function.

10 In a telephone network, it is important that any updating of the functions is carried out in real-time, and in a synchronised way. It is not acceptable for the network to be updated gradually, as happens in existing computer database techniques.

15 The present invention therefore proposes that, in a network of interconnected functions each of which is to be synchronised, one of those functions is identified as a primary function, at least one other function is identified as a primary standby function, with any
20 remaining function(s) being considered secondary. Then, when updating is needed, the primary function synchronises all other functions by signalling to them an update that it has received. Those other functions then

signal to the primary function that they have acted on the update. The primary function may then signal externally that the update has occurred, and at the same time provide acknowledgement signals to the other
5 functions.

In principle, only the primary function can do this. However, if for any reason the primary function fails, the primary standby function takes over control of the updating operation.

10 There may be multiple primary standby functions, although in a mobile telephone system other constraints may limit arrangements to a single primary standby function. All other functions are secondary, in the sense that they are incapable of taking over control of
15 the updating operation without re-programming of the network.

In such a system, requests for updating are sent only to the primary function, unless that has failed, in which case all update requests are sent to the primary
20 standby function.

In such an arrangement, it is possible for a secondary function to fail to carry out an update correctly. In such circumstances, the primary function

is aware of this because it does not receive an appropriate acknowledgement, and the secondary function is then treated as unsynchronised. In the unsynchronised state, the primary function will not attempt to update the secondary function. There may, however, be arrangements to permit an unsynchronised secondary function to resume a synchronised state, by causing the primary function to transmit to that secondary function all updates which have occurred since the secondary function became unsynchronised. Therefore, it is preferable that the primary, the primary standby, and/or the secondary function is arranged to record when any secondary function becomes unsynchronised.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described in detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a telecommunication system described in WO 96/11557.

Fig. 2 shows part of the telecommunication system of the present invention; and

Fig. 3 shows part of the arrangement of Fig. 2, in terms of significant functional components.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring first to Fig. 1, and as discussed in WO 96/11557, a switched network 10 interconnects land-based and mobile telephones. If a call to a mobile telephone is made from a land-based telephone, the call is routed via the public switched telephone network (PSTN) 11 to the switch network, and from that switch network 10 to the mobile telephone (BSS) 12. To do this, the switch network 10 must determine routing information, and to determine that routing information it must determine the location of the mobile telephone 12, which it does via a HLR to which the mobile telephone 12 is associated. When there are multiple HLRs 13,14, it is necessary for the switch network 10 to determine which HLR 13,14 must be accessed, on the basis of the telephone number (MSISDN number) of the mobile telephone input by the originator of the call.

The switched network 10 accesses a register unit 15, which identifies the called number and addresses it to a particular HLR 13,14 with which the mobile telephone 12 is associated. The register unit 15 permits the relationship between any given mobile telephone number and the HLRs 13,14 to be determined freely, so that the

number is unaffected by the particular HLR 13,14 with which it is associated. The register unit 15 removes the need for a particular mobile telephone number to be associated with a fixed HLR 13,14.

5 Once the particular HLR 13,14 with which the mobile telephone 12 is associated has been identified, signalling can occur to that HLR, and information derivable therefrom, in the usual way. This information is used to "set-up" the call to the mobile telephone 12,
10 which may then be routed to the destination telephone as is normal.

 Similarly, if a call originates at the mobile telephone 12, the switch network 10 must again determine the routing of that call. If the call is to a land-based
15 telephone, connected to the switch network 10 via the PSTN 11, then this routing can be on the basis of the telephone number of the destination telephone, in the normal way.

 If a call is made from a mobile telephone 12 to one
20 of a plurality of voice processing systems 16,17 or to services 18 associated with the switch network using a short code (e.g. 123) the relationship between the mobile telephone 12 and the corresponding service must be

determined by the register unit 15 before the switch network can determine the appropriate voice processing system 16,17 or services 18 to be accessed.

Fig. 2 shows the switch network 10 in more detail.

5 It has a plurality of mobile switching centres (MSC) 20,21 and 22, and a call destined to any given mobile telephone results in signalling between that MSC 20-22 and one of a plurality of signalling transfer points (STP) 30,31, which signal to the register unit 15 to
10 determine the HLR 13,14 which is appropriate to the mobile telephone 12. The register unit 15 of Fig. 1 derives that information from the telephone number (MSISDN number) of the mobile telephone 12. It would then be possible for the register unit 15 to forward the
15 signal directly to the appropriate HLR 13,14 but, it is preferable that the information is passed back to the corresponding STP 30,31 which then passes the signalling to the correct HLR 13,14.

A similar signalling flow occurs when the user of
20 the mobile telephone 12 tries to access a voice processing system (VPS) 16 or a service node (SN) 17. The call is received by one of the MSCs 20,21 and 22 which passes the dialled digits and the identity of the

mobile telephone to one of the STPs 30,31,32. This
relays the information to the register unit 15, which
uses this information to construct the correct address of
the appropriate voice processing service (VPS) 16 or
5 service node (SN) 17. That information is relayed back
from the register unit via one of the STPs 30,31,32 to
the original MSC 20,21,22. This address is then used to
route the call by the switch network 10. That routing
passes the call from the appropriate MSC 20,21,22 via the
10 switch network to the VPS 16 or the SN 17.

In the arrangement shown in Fig. 2, the register
unit 15 is not a single component, but comprises a
plurality of units hereinafter referred to as service
control points (SCP) 40. There are N SCP 40, wherein N
15 is an integer being 2 or greater. At least two SCP 40
are needed in order to provide a replicated database for
load sharing and fault tolerance.

In the arrangement of Fig. 2, the SCPs 40 are
interconnected by a data connection 41, and the system
20 also has a controller (NMS) 42 that monitors the service
control points (SCP) 40.

Fig. 2 illustrates the arrangement of the network in
structural terms. However, it is also possible to think

of the arrangement in functional terms, and the significant functions of the arrangement of Fig 2 are illustrated in Fig. 3. The SCPs 40 may, collectively, be considered as a plurality of functions, primarily data functions, which collectively provide a centralised repository for service/subscriber related data. Each of these functions will be referred to as a service data function or SDF. Thus, as shown in Fig. 3, a plurality of such functions (SDFs) 50,51,52,53 and 54 are interconnected, and connected to the data connection 41. Fig. 3 also shows a service control function SCF 55 which is a logical element (in the same way as the SDFs 50-54 are logical elements) corresponding to VPS 16, service node 19 etc. in Fig 2. The SCF 55 can be thought of as a "client" within the network which requests data from, updates to, etc the SDFs 50-54.

One of the SDFs 50 is designated a primary function, and has primary responsibility for synchronising updating of the other SDFs 51-54. The link between the SCF 55 and the data connection 41 is a path for data being retrieved by an SCF 55, and also of update information to the SDF 50.

At least one other SDF 51 is designated a primary

standby function and has a similar link 57 to the connection 41. As will be discussed in more detail later, the primary standby function 51 operates to take over the control of updating carried out by the primary function 50 if the primary function 50 is unable to carry out that operation correctly. Whilst there may be more than one primary standby function, in the arrangement shown in Fig. 3, all the other SDFs 52,53,54 are secondary functions. Those secondary functions 52,53,54 are also connected by suitable connection 58, 59, 60 to the data connection 41. Those connections 58, 59, 60 are involved in retrieval of data for an SCF, synchronisation of updates from the primary function SDFs, but not directly in updating from an SCF. Instead, all the SDFs 50-54 are interconnected for updating controlled by the primary function 50, or the primary standby function 51. In fact, those interconnecting are normally via connections 56 to 60 and data connection 41, but for functional purposes may be considered to be direct as shown in fig. 3.

In normal use, functions (SDFs) 50-54 provide a composite memory in which, in a mobile telephone system, information about users, network functions, etc may be

stored as discussed in more detail in WO 96/11557.

The present invention, however, is particularly concerned with the updating of the function network thus created.

5 In normal operation, a request for updating of data stored in the SDFs 50-54 is received at the primary function 50. When update information is received by the primary function 50, the primary function 50 signals the update to all other functions 51-54. When those
10 functions 51-54 have recorded the update, they signal back to the primary function 50 that the update has been completed. Thus, the primary function 50 can store information confirming that all the other functions 51-54 have been successfully updated. The primary function 50
15 may then signal to the SCF 55 to confirm that the update operation has been completed, and also confirm to the other functions 51-54 that it has recorded the completion of the update and that the SCF has been notified. Thus, at all times, the functions 50-54 are synchronised.

20 If any secondary function 50-54 fails successfully to record an update, this will be detected by the primary function 50 and that secondary function will then be considered unsynchronised, and thus not a reliable source

for data. The primary function 50 will not attempt to send further update signals to such an unsynchronised secondary function. Of course, if there are too many failures, the primary function may determine that the attempted update of the network of functions has wholly failed, in which case a suitable signal will be sent to the SCF 55, and the update operation rejected.

It is preferable that an unsynchronised secondary function can subsequently return itself to the synchronised state. An unsynchronised secondary function may signal to the primary function 50 an indication of the last update which it successfully completed. The primary function 50 may then determine all subsequent updates and transmit all those updates to the unsynchronised secondary function. If the unsynchronised secondary function successfully records all those updates, it may be considered to have returned to synchronisation. Once synchronised, the primary function 50 will continue to update that secondary function in the normal way.

Under some circumstances, the primary function 50 may need to be closed down. For example, this may be because the hardware on which the primary function 50 is

resident needs to be maintained. To prevent the network of functions having to be closed down at this time, the actions of the primary function 50 are transferred to the primary standby function 51. This hand-over of operations is signalled between the primary function 50 and the primary standby function 51, and also with the SCF 55. Any existing updates should be completed before this hand-over occurs, so that all SDFs are synchronised prior to the primary standby function 51 taking over.

10 This procedure can also apply in an unexpected failure of the primary function 50. As has previously been mentioned, when the primary function 50 has received confirmation from all the other functions 51 - 54 that updating had occurred, it notifies the requesting SCF and
15 then signals an acknowledgement to those other functions. If that acknowledgement is not received by the primary standby function 51 within a predetermined time and the primary standby function 51 is informed by the switched network 10 that the primary function is unavailable, the
20 system may be arranged so that the primary standby function 51 then automatically takes over control of the network functions 50-54 under the assumption that the primary function is no longer available.

Simultaneous failure of one or more secondary functions does not prevent the network of functions operating successfully, and either the primary function 50 or the primary standby function 51 may fail, in

5 combination with any of the secondary functions 52-54 and data updating and querying will still be possible.

However, if both the primary function 50 and the primary standby function 51 fail at the same time, then the remaining network of functions will only be able to

10 support data retrievals; data updating will not longer be possible. For this reason, it may be preferable to provide multiple primary standby functions, although other constraints within mobile telephone networks may prevent this.

15 It should be noted that although Fig. 3 illustrates an embodiment with five functions (SDFs) 50-54, the minimum number of functions to achieve the present invention is two. In such an arrangement, one function acts as a primary function, and the other acts as a
20 primary stand-by function. Further secondary functions then increase redundancy and load sharing.

In the above description, each service control point (SCP) 40 was associated with a corresponding SDF 50 to

54. It should be noted that any single SCP 40 may act as the storage site for only the corresponding SDF 50-54, or may store other information, such as data or control operations.

5 Moreover, in the preceding description, the present invention has been described in terms of a way of implementing the arrangements discussed in WO 96/11557. However, the present invention is not limited to this. The operations carried out by the SDF 50-54 may be any
10 data and/or data control functions. The operations described with reference to WO 96/11557 then act as examples of such functions.

CLAIMS

1. A telecommunication network having at least one
database of functions for controlling the network, said
database comprising at least a data function and a data
5 control function;

characterised in that:

the database is replicated a plurality of times, the
database of one of said replicated databases is a primary
database, the data control function of which is arranged
10 to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of
said replicated databases, and at least a second database
is a primary standby database, the data control function
of which is arranged to generate signals for synchronised
updating of all of said replicated databases in the event
15 of a failure of said primary database.

2. A network according to claim 1, wherein a plurality
of databases are primary standby databases.

3. A network according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein
databases other than said primary database and said
20 primary standby database(s) are secondary databases and
are arranged to signal to said primary and/or said
primary standby database(s) when they have been updated
in response to the updating signals from said primary of

said primary standby database(s).

4. A method of operating a telecommunication network,
in which the network is controlled by at least one
database of functions, said database comprising at least

5 a data function and a data control function;

characterised in that:

the database is replicated a plurality of times, and
the method comprises:

designating one of said replicated databases as a
10 primary database;

designating at least one other of said replicated
databases as a primary standby database;

updating all of said replicated databases on the
basis of updating signals from said primary database

15 unless said primary database has failed; and

updating all of said replicated databases on the
basis of updating signals from said at least one primary
standby database when said primary database has failed.

5. A telecommunications network comprising:

20 a primary database having at least a data function
and a data control function; and

a plurality of secondary databases which are
replicas of the primary database, wherein at least one of

the secondary databases in a primary standby database;

wherein the data control function of the primary database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating the secondary databases, and wherein the data

5 control function of the primary standby database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of the secondary databases in the even of a failure of the primary database.

6. A network according to claim 5, further comprising a
10 plurality of primary standby databases.

7. A network according to claim 5, wherein the secondary databases other than the primary database are arranged to signal to the primary and/or the primary standby database(s) when they have been updated in
15 response to the updating signals from the primary database.

8. A method of operating a telecommunication network,. comprising:

providing an initial database having at least a data
20 function and a data control function;

replicating the initial database to form plurality of replicated databases;

designating one of the replicated databases as a

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

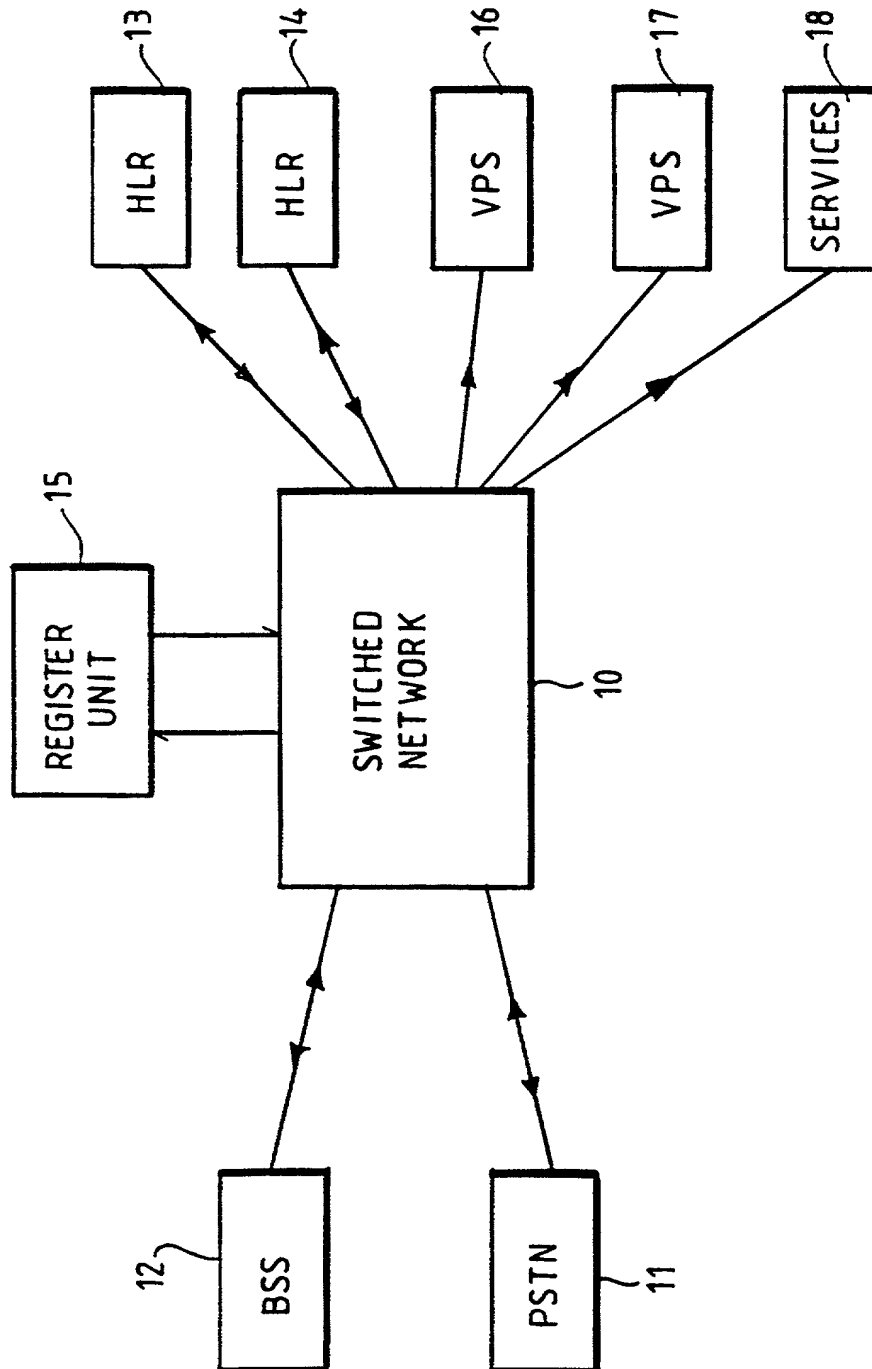


Fig.1.

07/582721

Fig.2.

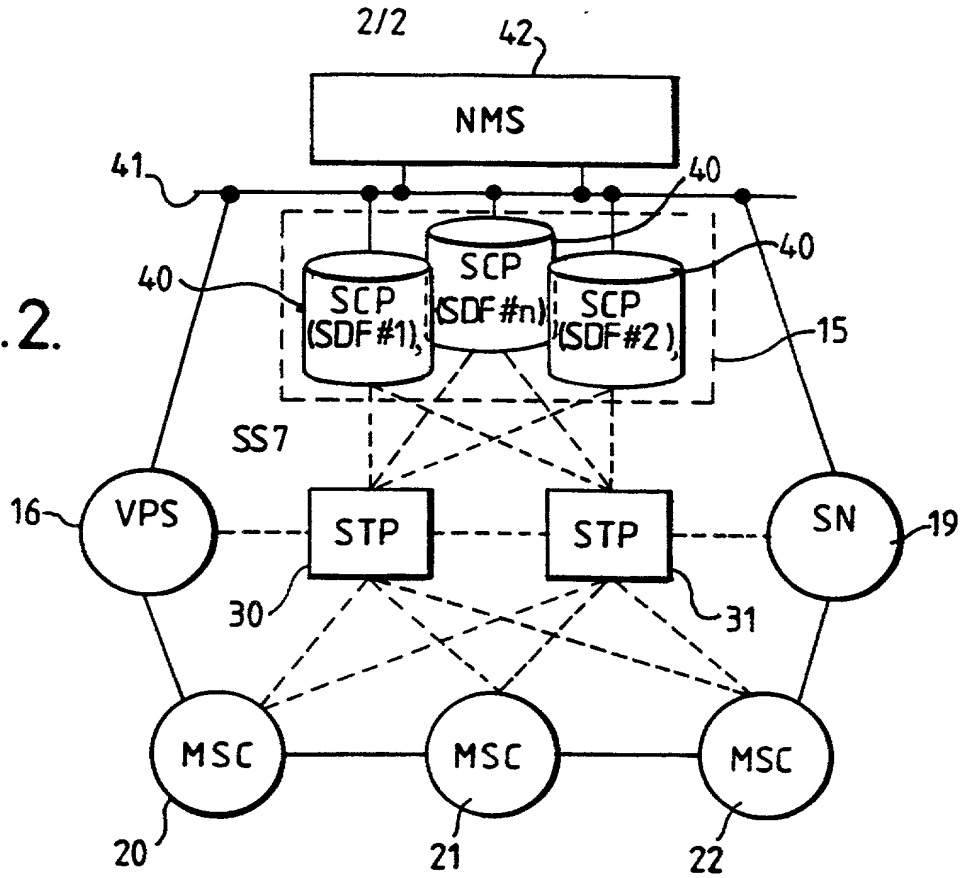
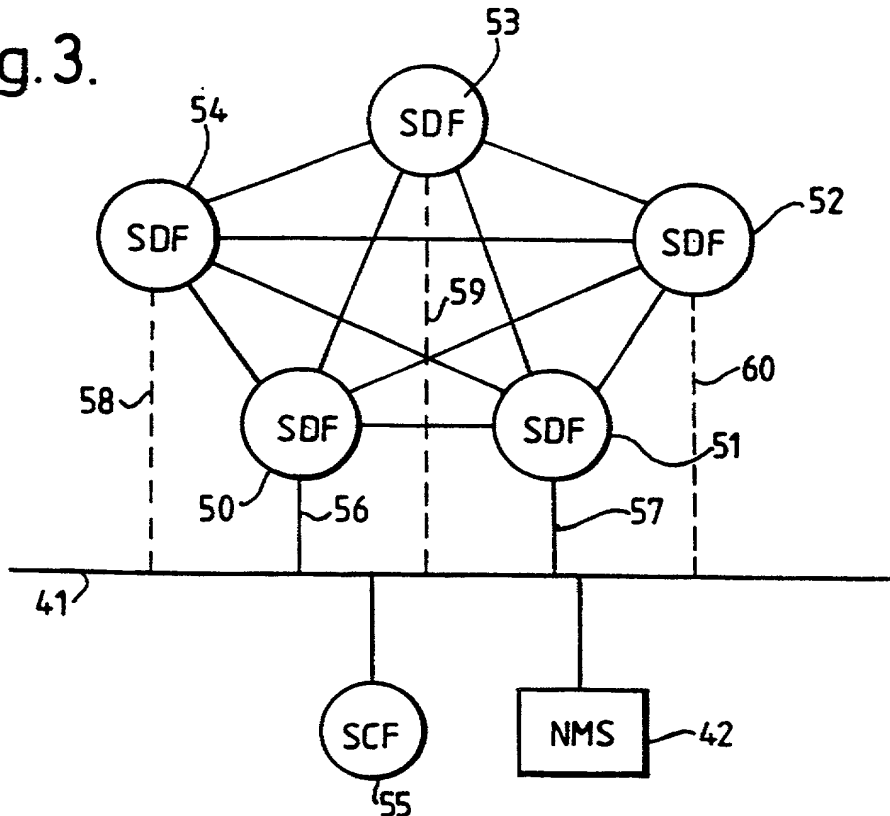


Fig.3.



Docket No.

84625-000200

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto:

☒ was filed on 22 December 1998 as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number PCT/GB98/03881

and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

9727483.3 UK 30 December 1997
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below::

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

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